

Different signal

Bethea takes command of 3rd Signal Brigade

By Emily Baker

Fort Hood Herald

Col. Robert L. Bethea Jr. said his family's dream came true Thursday when he assumed command of the 3rd Signal Brigade.

Bethea comes from an assignment as the deputy C-6 for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

He thanked the brigade's former commander, Col. Alan R. Lynn, for leading the unit to a reputation of being well-trained and professional.

"You represent the very best of our professional Army," Bethea told the brigade's soldiers during the change-of-command ceremony. "I've seen you in combat, and I truly feel honored to be your commander."

Many of the unit's reputation-gaining actions took place during a deployment to Iraq last year. The brigade handled a sizable communications network, which at 165,000 square miles is the largest in



Herald/DAVID MORRIS

Incoming commander Col. Robert L. Bethea Jr. accepts the 3rd Signal Brigade colors from Maj. Gen. James Simmons during change of command ceremonies June 3. Bethea took over for Col. Alan R. Lynn who had command of the brigade for three years.

Army history.

While managing the network, the brigade's 2,700 troops also built or renovated 13 schools, founded Baghdad Signal University and worked to rebuild Iraqi infrastructure.

Currently, the brigade's 16th Signal Battalion is deployed again to Iraq.

Reviewing officer Maj. Gen. James E. Simmons, III Corps' deputy commander, attributed the brigade's successes to its leadership. Lynn assumed the brigade's helm in 2002.

"As outstanding as these soldiers are, they have not been on autopilot for three

years," Simmons said. "They have done operations flawlessly with unmatched performance anywhere in the Army."

Lynn said he was blessed to have led the brigade, adding it was difficult to give up command.

"I will remember we shared danger and great joy together," Lynn told the brigade. "It is a feeling of more than a brotherhood."

Lynn has been assigned to the Army G-6 staff at the Pentagon.

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